

H.R. 4337. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain rules applicable to regulated investment companies, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 3167. An act to amend title 13 of the United States Code to provide for a 5-year term of office for the Director of the Census and to provide for the authority and duties of the Director and Deputy Director of the Census, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: C. Richard D'Amato of Maryland for a term beginning January 1, 2011 and expiring December 31, 2012 vice Peter Videnicks of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by the Public Law 108-7, and upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, reappoints the following individuals to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission.

Robin Cleveland of Virginia for a term expiring December 31, 2012.

Dennis C. Shea of Virginia for a term expiring December 31, 2012.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ISRAEL'S FIRE

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the worst fire in Israel's history, I want to commend USAID and the U.S. Forest Service for leading America's vital effort to help extinguish the flames.

Now that the fires are out, the hardest work begins. The U.S. Forest Service will work closely with the Jewish National Fund and the State of Israel's national foresters to rebuild the destroyed forest.

Their first order of business will be assessing the damage and creating a plan for the long-term renewal of the historically significant Carmel Forest. The Mount Carmel region in Israel is rich in biblical history, most famous as the site of Elijah's battle with the prophets of Baal.

The coordinated efforts of the JNF and the U.S. Forest Service will ensure this precious area is restored and maintained for generations. The partnership of the U.S. Forest Service and the Jewish National Fund is yet another reminder of the strong ties between the United States and Israel.

I urge my colleagues support the efforts of the JNF as it works to restore and rebuild this beautiful and ancient region of Israel.

AMAZON.COM WELCOMED TO SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Lexington County, South Carolina, received great news this week as Amazon.com announced plans to open a distribution center in Cayce. This will bring 1,200 jobs to the Midlands, and I truly thank Amazon.com for their economic commitment to our State.

The Lexington County Council, with the Central Carolina Alliance, put together a positive incentives package, promoted by Economic Development Manager Chuck Whipple.

Joe Taylor, Secretary of the South Carolina Department of Commerce, has proven his success of creating long-term private sector jobs. Under Secretary Taylor's leadership, the Department of Commerce has recruited 82,695 jobs and \$16.7 billion in capital investment. As a result of local leaders like Secretary Taylor, the future is looking bright for South Carolina. His proven successor is BMW executive Bobby Hitt, named by Governor-Elect Nikki Haley.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism. Welcome back to Washington Adjutant General-elect Bob Livingston, America's only elected adjutant general.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Human Rights Day.

Today, people around the world recognize the human rights violations that continue to occur in so many countries like Vietnam and China. It is also a day where we honor the men and women who sacrifice their freedom in order to fight for human rights.

At this moment, there are three individuals imprisoned in Vietnam for exercising their rights of free speech and expression: Tran Khai Thanh Thuy, Le Thi Cong Nhan and Pham Thanh Nghien are three women democracy activists who have been denied their basic human rights by their own government, Vietnam.

The people of America enjoy the freedom to speak and worship freely, but it is important for us to remember those who do not have the same freedoms as we do. So, today, let's remember all those freedom fighters and let's work together in the coming year to ensure that people like these three women are allowed to express themselves.

OUT-OF-CONTROL SPENDING

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, our national debt is quickly approaching \$14 trillion. Yesterday, Congress approved another trillion dollars, funding government next year, without making the necessary cuts.

This spending bill does nothing to reverse the out-of-control spending of the last 2 years. Instead, it continues this incredible growth of borrowing and spending that puts our country on the track to bankruptcy. In the past 50 years, we have only balanced the budget five times.

This has to change. During my first week, I introduced the constitutional balanced budget amendment that says simply we don't spend more than we take in.

We need to pass the constitutional budget amendment, and we need to pass it today.

CUTTING TAXES FOR MILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRES

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have said over and over again that cutting taxes for millionaires and billionaires will create jobs. It simply has not.

Albert Einstein once described insanity as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. That is why I rise today to ask, where are the jobs? Where are they? It is time we restore sanity to the discussion on tax cuts.

Tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires do not create jobs. They are also not supported by the general public. In fact, according to a CBS poll from last week, only 26 percent of Americans support millionaire tax breaks and only 46 percent of Republicans support millionaire tax breaks.

So I ask, who are my Republican friends listening to? Is it the average family or small business in their district, or is it Wall Street CEOs and an army of special interest lobbyists?

The trickle-down effect has not worked. As any farmer will tell you, you fertilize a plant from bottom up, not top down, because if its roots are strong, the plant will be strong. Our country's roots are the middle class, and it's time we give them nutrients to thrive.